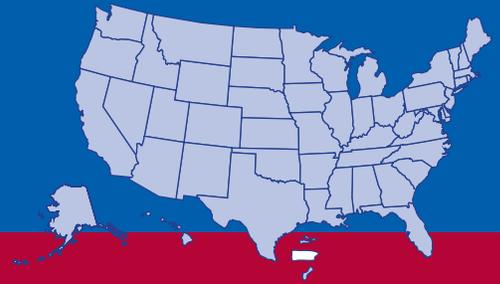


PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (PHEP) PROGRAM



PUERTO RICO

15 Years of PHEP

In response to the deadly events of September 11, 2001, and the subsequent anthrax attacks, Congress established a new program to help health departments across the nation prepare for emergencies. It is now 15 years since CDC initiated the [Public Health Emergency Preparedness \(PHEP\) program](#).

Every year since, the PHEP program has provided vital resources to ensure communities can effectively respond to infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear events.

PHEP Now

In 2017, PHEP provided \$612 million across public health departments to improve response readiness. About 40% of funds went to support epidemiologists (disease detectives), lab staff, planners, and other preparedness staff on the ground.

In the future, CDC will continue to support PHEP awardees by sharing technical expertise, best practices, and lessons learned, along with tools and resources to identify and address gaps.

Learn More

For more information about the PHEP Program, visit www.cdc.gov/phpr/map.htm.

AT A GLANCE

In Puerto Rico

▶ 3.4 million residents

Key Emergency Operations Center Activations

- ▶ 2016: Zika Response
- ▶ 2017: Hurricane Maria

Frequent Public Health Emergencies

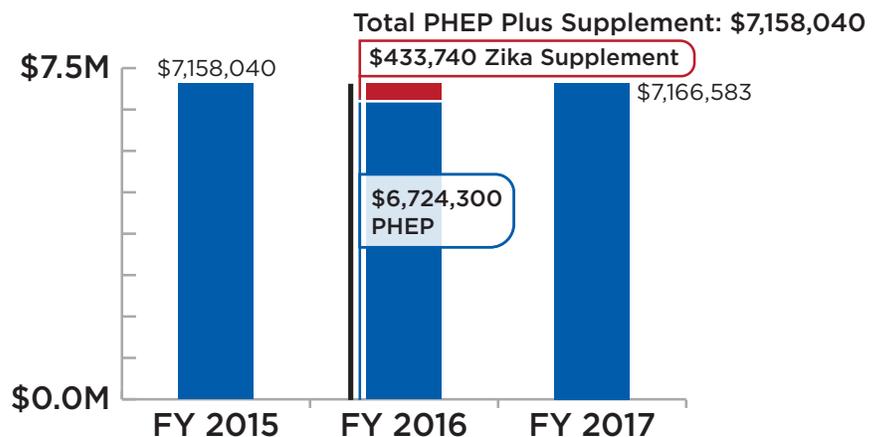
- ▶ Tropical Storms/Hurricanes
- ▶ Flooding
- ▶ Landslides/Mudslides

PHEP funds programs and activities that build and strengthen the nation's preparedness for public health emergencies.

Preparedness and Response Funding Snapshot

FY 2017 PHEP - \$7,166,583

Base Plus Population - \$6,906,583
Cities Readiness Initiative - \$-
Level 1 Chemical Lab - \$-



PHEP IN ACTION – PREVENTING THE FURTHER SPREAD OF THE ZIKA VIRUS



Puerto Rico's Department of Health activated its Emergency Operations Center for 510 days in response to the island's Zika outbreak. Twenty-five PHEP-trained staff managed and supported the response. PHEP funding also supported more than 95,000 blood sample tests and helped purchase insect repellent and educational materials for more than 30,000 people.

CDC identified 15 public health preparedness capabilities critical to public health preparedness.

TOP PHEP CAPABILITY INVESTMENTS

1. Public Health Laboratory Testing
2. Information Sharing
3. Medical Countermeasure Dispensing
4. Public Health Surveillance & Epidemiologic Investigation
5. Medical Surge

For a complete list of all 15 public health preparedness capabilities, visit www.cdc.gov/phpr/readiness/capabilities.htm.

Medical Countermeasure Readiness: Ensuring that medicine and supplies get to those who need them most during an emergency.

KEY STRENGTH	KEY CHALLENGE
Strong long-term relationships with distribution partners which are key to medical countermeasure missions	The municipalities have not identified sufficient points of dispensing staff to support a 48-hour mass dispensing campaign

States, territories, and localities are required to develop emergency plans covering children, pregnant women, and other vulnerable populations.

Households included children	31%
Respondents who know they are pregnant	3%
Respondents 65 or older	21%
Respondents who reported having diabetes	16%
Respondents who reported a condition that limits activities	19%
Respondents who reported a health problem that required the use of specialized equipment	10%

PHEP funds support staff who have expertise in many different areas.

PHEP-Funded Staff	
CDC Field Staff	1
Educators	4
Epidemiologists	6
Health Professionals	2
Laboratorians	13
Other Staff	45

PHEP PROGRAM — KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

In an emergency, it is critical that staff can meet quickly to plan for, lead, and manage a public health response. Public health staff serve as Incident Commanders, Public Information Officers, Planning Section Chiefs, Operations Section Chiefs, and other response roles.

Emergency Operations Coordination	2014	2015	2016
Number of minutes for public health staff with incident management lead roles to report for immediate duty	45	45	30

LRN chemical (LRN-C) labs rapidly identify exposures to toxic chemicals, aid diagnoses, and minimize further human exposures. CDC manages the LRN-C, a group of labs with testing capabilities to detect and confirm chemical health threats. LRN-C labs are designated as Level 1, 2, or 3, with Level 1 labs demonstrating the most advanced capabilities.

Current number and level of LRN-C Labs: 1 (Level 2)

Public Health Laboratory Testing: LRN-C	2014	2015	2016
Proportion of core chemical agent detection methods demonstrated by Level 1 and/or Level 2 labs	0/9	N/A	N/A
Number of additional chemical agent detection methods demonstrated by Level 1 and/or Level 2 labs	0	N/A	N/A
Result of LRN exercise to collect, package, and ship samples	Passed	Passed	Passed



For more information on
 CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, visit
www.cdc.gov/phpr/map.htm